

Hi Folks

Christmas candle, Christmas tree
Carol singers singing
Christmas light and tinsel bright
Christmas bells a-ringing
Don't forget the Christmas story
Jesus' birth
Don't forget the Christmas message
"Peace on Earth"

The words above are from one of the modern carols that the praise group are singing at our Big Sing this year on 11 December. We are once more in the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

In the towns the Christmas lights are being turned on and the shops are all hoping for big profits. In many homes the decorations will have been brought out and lists will have been made of gifts and food that will be needed for the special day.

There will be parties and taking youngsters to the pantomime and to see Santa with their wish list and cards with winter scenes and Seasons Greetings. Weather permitting our own church organisations will also have all their celebrations. But in all the busyness don't forget the Christmas story – Jesus ' birth – don't forget the Christmas message "peace on Earth".

Come and join us in Church as we celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and remember in our prayers and giving those in our community and wider world who need the hope, peace, joy and love that come with knowing the Prince of Peace.

Don't forget the Christmas story Jesus' birth
Don't forget the Christmas message
"To all men, goodwill and love and Peace on Earth"

May God's blessing be with you this Christmas time and in the New Year

Helen F Christie

Editorial

Christmas - A time for giving and receiving.

God gave us Jesus so we could learn to love one another and praise Him.

At a time when austerity and hardship seem to come at us from all angles - newspapers, television and radio, let us be thankful for the small inexpensive acts of kindness we can give to one another. Maybe we should get back to basics and worship our Lord in the manner he requires - loving and helping one another and those less fortunate than ourselves. In this magazine you will read of the help we can give through UNICEF and the Vine Trust just two of the charities we, as Haggs Parish Church, support. It is in giving that you will receive!

I hope you will all have a happy Christmas

Happy Christmas to one and all,

Jean McCheyne

The winter magazine would not be the same without the following :

The Gate of the Year

I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year - "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied - "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

UNICEF's Jar of Grace Appeal

'It is wrong that children are going hungry. Let's help put it right.'

Malnutrition is preventable with low cost, high impact solutions that can have an immediate effect on the health of a malnourished child. Famine is affecting millions of children in East Africa. Today, more than 250 children will die of starvation in Somalia. One child is too many. UNICEF is the main provider of life-saving food for malnourished children in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. Right now, thanks to UNICEF supporters, life-saving supplies are being delivered to children in East Africa.

With your help UNICEF can deliver food, vaccines and other basic supplies to save children's lives and prevent disease in East Africa and around the world.

The 'Jar of Grace' Appeal asks that every time during Advent, before you eat your main meal of the day, give thanks and drop your spare change into a jar and take a moment to remember children facing the effects of malnutrition

The 'Jars of Grace' will be collected at the end of Advent.

'A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. ' Proverbs 22:9

Sue Storrar

Christmas Greetings:

Nan and Garry Ure wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and peaceful, healthy year ahead.

Jean and Murray McCheyne.

Jack and Elizabeth Dunn wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Hope you all have a Happy Christmas and good wishes for 2012 from Elma Findlay

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year from Fiona Shuit

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and happy and healthy New Year with love from Gwen Hamilton & family

Maisie Mortimer wishes all her friends a Merry Christmas and Good New Year

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous and Healthy New Year from Nan & Allan Young and family



Praise Band

The Praise Band, with Winnie ably leading us, is now well under way with rehearsals for **11th December** for the **BIG SING** - in Church that evening at 6.30p.m. Winnie is to be thanked for the amount of work she does for this event keeping us all focussed.

There will be many favourites and some new additions so come along and join the the lead up to the Christmas Celebrations. New members are always welcome.

Elma Findlay



‘Be Relaxed and Energised with Yoga’

with Sue Storrar (Yoga Scotland Registered Teacher)

Our yoga group has met in the Church Hall on Thursday evenings from 7 - 8.15 p.m. throughout the year.

We have used yoga to energise the body, relax the mind and to explore inner stillness; with everyone working at their own level.

These yoga sessions will continue until 15th Dec 2011 and restart on February 2nd 2011, as Sue will be practising yoga and touring India during the month of January.

To find out more about yoga please contact Sue (01324 840757) or come along and join our yoga group on Thursday evenings.

‘Om Shanti’ - Peace be with you. Sue Storrar

The Guild

The session started with the Dedication Service on October 9th in Church. Our first meeting was 10th October when Rev. Helen Christie spoke to us on 24th October. Mrs Jean Armstrong from Dunblane spoke on “Love Stories from the Bible” and 7th November 3 + 1 from Lenzie came and sang to us. Brian Richmond spoke about Old Hags and Denny on 21st November. All very interesting topics and thoroughly enjoyed by all our members. Guild week was from 20-26th November and we provided the tea after Church on Sunday 20th. The Christmas lunch will be 19th December in the Railway Inn, Dennyloanhead.

On 27th January the 37 Club will be our guests at a Scots Night Concert with the Praise Band. Tickets will be on sale at £3.00 each, this is one of our project evenings.

On 20th February we are holding a Beetle Drive in the Church Hall in aid of “Driving Force”. There will be tickets on sale for this later.

I would like, on behalf of the Guild, to thank Bee and Maisie for the amount of work they both do to keep things running smoothly.

Merry Christmas to you all from the Guild and thanks you to everyone who supports us throughout the year.

Elma Findlay.



Vine Trust Take to the Water

When the Vine Trust, known for their pioneering work on the Amazon, were looking for somewhere to set up their new headquarters, it seemed logical that they were drawn towards water closer to home. So in September, they 'launched' their own barge, the 'Tom Dunn' and began using it not just as offices, but as the 'first centre of global citizenship' for the use of all. The converted oil barge has been gutted and converted into offices, a galley, classrooms with interactive whiteboard technology and even a stage, exhibition centre and reception area. The vessel is named after Tom Dunn, a senior naval architect who worked with the Vine Trust to re-design and re-equip their Amazon medical ships. He helped the Trust select the barge, did the design work on it and oversaw most of the work, but sadly died earlier this year before he could see it completed.

The barge will be docked in Leith in Edinburgh, just along from the royal yacht Britannia. Staff moved in during July and it will be officially opened by the charity's patron, Princess Anne, this month.

Willie MacPherson, chief executive of the vine Trust, said that the barge had cost just of £600,000, but that the overseas work of the Trust had not been affected.

"People have donated money specifically for the barge", he said. "None of the money has come from funds we would use to do the work out in South America.

"The conversion work has been carried out at Imperial Dock in Leith and we've kept costs down by doing the bulk of the work ourselves, with the help of skilled specialists who have come in to work with us."

Vine Trust is an international; interdenominational charity which seeks to enable volunteers to make a real and significant difference to some of the poorest children and communities in the world. Its Amazon Hope Project provides a health service for around 100,000 patients every year.

Extract from Life and Work 2011.

Haggs Parish Church supports the Vine Trust through donations via the Ark in the vestibule and Soup and Sandwich Lunch. Further information about the Vine Trust is available through their web site.



Sunday Club

We have started our year successfully, with up to 15 children attending some weeks. The activities are varied and follow the service each week, with the Seniors doing more close bible study, the younger children hear stories do arts and crafts, singing, and praying which are some of the activities we love. We are currently discussing how to bring Christmas into the church through young eyes, and are preparing for the Christmas service. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the people who help out at the Sunday Club each week, Moira, Laura, Nan, Libby, Laura S. Merry Christmas and Happy Year to all. You are more than welcome to come and see what we do on a Sunday morning, please speak to me and we'll get it arranged.

1st Haggs Girls Brigade

1st Haggs Girls' Brigade has successfully started a new session, with Shirley-Anne due to be commissioned soon and will resume the roll of Captain.

We currently have about 22 girls attending each week and a big thanks goes out to them. The girls attended Church for our Opening Service and Remembrance Sunday, it was lovely to see so many of them in church. The girls have adjusted well to the changes made and we are exploring lots of new adventures.

I would like to thank Laura, who is also undertaking Officer training, and Shona for assisting with the Explorers, Juniors, and Brigaders each week. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mrs Christie, Beth Young from 1st Denny and Mary Munro our District Commissioner who have guided us all through the change of roles within the Girls' Brigade. We are still learning but we will strive to keep the Company in Haggs and are grateful for the experiences that Liz, Jean and Margaret shared.

Shirley-Anne Swan

1st Haggs Junior Section

Christmas is upon us yet again and it seems no time since we started in late August. Our numbers seem to fluctuate, but we usually have around 16 boys each week. They have really got into chess and are disappointed if we do not play each week. This is great, in an age of electronic games, to see the boys learn a new skill which doesn't involve computers!

We had a party for the 128th birthday of the B.B. which, being 4th October, fell on our Tuesday section night. You may have seen a photo of this in the Falkirk Herald, and we are hoping to have it printed in the National B.B. Gazette, which comes out in January.

We won the Battalion Junior Section five-a-side competition and the following day were 3rd in the Battalion Spiritual competition where a good few teams took part.

We will have a Christmas night out, probably to the cinema, which is always enjoyed by everyone.

We hope you all have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support throughout the Session.

Morag Wales.



Carpet Bowls

Although numbers are small we all enjoy our time of fellowship on a Wednesday afternoon. The bowling may not be spectacular but it is very enthusiastic. We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch in the Cornhill on Wed. 14th December. If you would like an afternoon of fun, laughter and a nice cuppa please come and join us in the Church Hall on a Wednesday at 12.30 p.m.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and thanks to Bee for arranging everything every week.

Elma Findlay

Church Diary 2011-2012

<p>December 2 p.m. 5th 11th 11 a.m. 11th 7 p.m. 13th 18th 21st 6.30 p. m. 24th 7 p.m. 24th 11,30 p.m. 25th</p>	<p>Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home Kirk Session Meeting Gift Service Praise Band 'Big Sing' 37 Club Christmas Dinner Lessons & Carols Service Carol Singing at Bankview Family service at Head of Muir Watch Night Service at Hags - Retiral offering for Christian Aid Christmas Day Service</p>
<p>January 2012 2p.m. 1st 8th 10th 24th</p>	<p>Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Informal Communion 'Souper' Sunday for HIV. 37 Club at home 37 Club Haggis Bash</p>
<p>February 2p.m. 7th 21st 26th</p>	<p>Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. 37 Club 10 Pin Bowling 37 Club at home Soup and Sandwich Lunch</p>
<p>March 2 p.m. 4th 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 8th 2 p.m. 11th 18th 20th</p>	<p>Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Communion Service. 37 Club Glasgow Police Museum Church ASM Mothering Sunday 37 Club Gentlemen's Dinner</p>

April 2 p.m. 1st 2 nd - 6th 6th 8th	Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Palm Sunday followed by Soup & Sandwich Lunch. Holy Week. Good Friday. East Sunday.
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May 2 p.m. 13th 14 th - 19 th	Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Christian Aid Service & Lunch. Christian Aid Week.
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June 2 p.m. 24th	Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Sunday Club Prize Giving.
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July 2 p.m.	Wednesday Services at Bankview Nursing Home. Sea Sunday Service
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Marriage

‘Whom God has joined together’

Sept. 30 Nicola Turnbull to Michael Moore

Oct. 15 Catriona Martin to Connor McGaughey

Nov. 11 Ashleigh Millar to William Hardie

Deaths

‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

Oct. Baby Riley Ian McLean Morrison Maddison
 Mr Edward Blackwood Hags

Nov. Miss Margaret Abercrombie Banknock
 Mrs Jeannie Sneddon Denny